

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-45, 49-50, 58-59 and 70-95 are cancelled, claims 46-48, 51-57 and 60-69 are amended, and claims 96-103 are added. Thus, claims 46-48, 51-57 and 60-69 and 96-103 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Replacement formal drawings of Figures 20 and 31 are submitted herewith under a separate cover letter. Figure 20 was revised in order to correct the misspelled term "Recoding" in the recording admission code memory 1511 of the key issuing center apparatus 1507 and to label, as used in the specification, the control section of the key issuing center apparatus 1507 as corresponding to reference numeral "1507a". Figure 20 was also revised in order to extend the curved line between the text "Second Encrypted Content 1517" to the indicated output from the second cipher encoder 1516 of the CATV decoder 1506. Further, Figure 31 was revised in order to correct the misspelled word "Recoeding" on the lefthand side of Figure 31. Approval of the replacement formal drawings is respectfully requested.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 9 on page 14 of the Office Action, that claim 50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 46 has been amended to include the limitations originally presented in cancelled claims 49 and 50. Accordingly, in view of the Examiner's assertion that claim 50 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 46, as well as amended claims 47-48 and 51-52 which depend therefrom, are clearly allowable.

The Applicants also thank the Examiner for kindly indicating, in item 10 on page 14 of the Office Action, that claims 53, 57, 60-62, 65 and 68-69 are allowed. Minor editorial revisions were made to claims 53, 57, 60-62, 65 and 68-69 in order to improve their U.S. form. The Applicants submit that the revisions to claims 53, 57, 60-62, 65 and 68-69 were not to broaden or narrow the scope of protection for the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 53, 57, 60-62, 65 and 68-69, as well as amended claims

54-56, 63-64 and 66-67 which depend therefrom, are allowable for the reasons identified by the Examiner in item 10 on page 14 of the Office Action.

New claims 96-103 are similar in scope to amended claims 60-67, respectively, except that new claims 98-106 were each written to avoid a construction under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, since new claims 96-103 are similar in scope to amended claims 60-67, respectively, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable in item 10 on page 14 of the Office Action, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 96-103 are also clearly allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

A fee and a Petition for a one-month Extension of Time are filed herewith pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.136(a).

Respectfully submitted,

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